

And so they met as their pointment³ was and were agreed and accorded thoroughly. And wine was fetched and they drank together. Right so came an adder out of a little heathbush, and it stung a knight in the foot. And so when the knight felt him so stung, he looked down and saw the adder. And anon⁴ he drew his sword to slay the adder, and thought none other harm. And when the host on both parties saw that sword drawn, then they blew beams,⁵ trumpets, horns, and shouted grimly. And so both hosts dressed them⁶ together. And King Arthur took his horse and said, "Alas, this unhappy day!" and so rode to his party, and Sir Mordred in like wise.



The battle that breaks out is a horrible one. A hundred thousand soldiers are killed. Arthur is horrified to see so many of his noble knights fall.



Then King Arthur looked about and was ware⁷ where stood Sir Mordred leaning upon his sword among a great heap of dead men.

"Now give me my spear," said King Arthur unto Sir Lucan, "for yonder I have espied the traitor that all this woe hath wrought."⁸



Vocabulary Development

accorded (uh KAWR did) *v.* brought into harmony or agreement

adder (AD uhr) *n.* poisonous snake

espied (es PĪD) *v.* spotted; seen

3. **pointment** arrangement.
4. **anon** soon after; immediately.
5. **beams** a type of trumpet.
6. **dressed them** prepared to come.
7. **ware** aware.
8. **hath wrought** (RAWT): has made.



Reading Strategy

Circle key ideas and details in the bracketed passage. Then, **summarize** how the fighting begins.

Vocabulary and Pronunciation

The letter combination *ea* has three main sounds, shown on this chart. Say the three examples aloud.

Sound	Example	Rhymes with
1. long /a/	great	ate
2. long /e/	heap	peep
3. short /e/	dead	bed

Say each word below. Then, on the line, write whether it uses long /a/, long /e/, or short /e/.

- already _____
- jealous _____
- break _____
- spear _____
- death _____
- steak _____
- dream _____
- treaty _____